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Diana T Fritz 04/25/2007 09:57:03 AM From DB/Inbox: Diana T Fritz

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Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 00683

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/2017  
TAGS: [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [IR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [AE](#)  
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COMPACT ON IRAQ (ICI) - UAE ATTENDANCE AND  
DEBT RELIEF

REF: A. ABU DHABI 0633

- [1](#)B. AMB SISON-DEPSEC KIMMITT 4/19 TELCON
- [1](#)C. STATE 50497
- [1](#)D. STATE 47346

Classified By: DCM Martin Quinn, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) On April 19 Ambassador spoke to UAE FM Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ) to press for high level attendance at the May 3 International Compact on Iraq, preferably AbZ himself. Ambassador also raised the issue of UAE's forgiveness of Iraqi debt (Paris Club terms, following Saudi Arabia's April 17 announcement). AbZ responded that the Saudis had not coordinated with the UAE before making the announcement, but that the UAE's commitment had been on the table for some time. "We were ready a long time ago," he said.

[1](#)2. (C) Following up, MFA Acting U/S Tariq Al Haidan called Ambassador April 24 to confirm that UAE Minister of State for Finance Mohamed Khalfan bin Khirbash would lead the UAE delegation to the Iraq Compact -- ensuring Ministerial level representation.

[1](#)3. (C) Ambassador again raised the Iraqi debt relief issue at an April 24 lunch with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed, urging UAE follow-through. In subsequent conversation with Jassem Al Mannai, Arab Monetary Fund Director General, Ambassador strongly encouraged his participation and was told by Al Mannai that he would "do his best to attend" the meeting. Al Mannai noted that the Arab Monetary Fund would likely not be able to extend new financing to Iraq, until the Iraqis began to clear their arrears, but that it would continue to provide technical assistance and offer all possible support.

SISON